

EDITORIAL ARTICLES.

NOTES ON SURGICAL QUESTIONS DISCUSSED AT THE PARIS CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

The proceedings at the recent Congress for the study of tuberculosis at Paris, concerned chiefly questions of heredity and the modes of propagation of that disease. Some papers on the surgical aspects of tuberculosis may claim notice. In tuberculosis of the foot in children, Redard recommended scraping the fungous granulations, scooping out of the diseased bone, and employment of the actual cautery in preference to extensive resections. Strict antiseptic precautions should be exercised and after the second day he employed prolonged local antiseptic baths. Returns of the disease are treated in the same fashion and generally three or four operations of this kind suffice. Verneuil supported his views and laid stress on the necessity in cases where sinuses exist of rendering the parts thoroughly antiseptic before operation.

Arloing returned again to the question of the identity or non-identity of scrofula and tuberculosis. His previous experiments with the inoculation of strumous glands on guinea pigs and rabbits had led him to the conclusion that the virus respectively producing these diseases might be distinct, this being based on the assumption that strumous glands produced tuberculosis in guinea pigs, but had no effect on rabbits. In a series of subsequent and more extended experiments he obtained the same results as F. Eve (see *British Med. Jour.*, vol. 1, 1888, p. 788), viz., that in many cases strumous glands when inoculated produced tuberculosis in rabbits as well as in guinea pigs, and hence he came to the same conclusion as the writer named—that there is no proof that the virus of adenitis is due to any other

bacillus than that of Koch ; further that it was impossible clinically to distinguish between the innocuous and the more virulent forms of strumous gland disease. An extensive series of experiments on tuberculous disease of bones gave practically the same results, rabbits being affected in some cases and not in others. The subsequent history of seventeen cases operated upon showed that the best results were obtained from those cases in which the morbid products were innocuous to rabbits and therefore less malignant.

Four cases of scrofulous or tuberculous lesions of the skin furnished by comparative experiment the diagnosis of scrofula (that is to say rabbits remained unaffected, guinea pigs took the disease), although certain of the patients had their lungs affected. This fact would appear to show that comparative experiment only furnishes a test of the virulence of the local lesion from which the material is obtained.

Lannelongue communicated three cases of peri-hepatic abscess in children due to hepatic tuberculosis. In each case the abscess was opened and rib resected, but death took place in all, in two cases the cause being pleurisy.

As the result of an extended series of observations founded on the autopsy of 93 infants, Babes made an important communication on the micro-organisms associated with tuberculosis in infants. In the majority of cases the micro-organisms of suppuration were present with the tubercle bacillus of Koch. In ulcerative diseases of the mucous membranes with tuberculous foci sapro-genic bacilli were present ; while in tuberculous pneumonia, pleurisy, peritonitis and tubercular meningitis, one finds micro-organisms which have the power of producing these maladies. The author concludes that tubercular lesions open the door to the entrance of other micro-organisms which aggravate the tuberculous process and the state of the general malady and are often the cause of septic and pyæmic phenomena together with apparent parenchymatous degenerations of the organs of infants.

F. S. EVE.